This mound was seven days in being excavated, and six men were employed. It was hauled out by three teams and dumped in a gravel pit at the owner's request, so that it is now only three feet high, whereas it used to be over nine.

MICROSCOPY.

On a method of preparing blastoderms of the Fowl.—Hasnell (*Proc. Linn. Socy. New South Wales, 1889*) has found the following method of great value in expediting the process of removing and preparing the blastoderms of early stages (up to the third day), and also in diminishing the risk of injury. The fixing fluid used is ten per cent. nitric acid, as employed by Whitman and others. The novel point in the method is the mode of getting rid of the entire white without any trouble, and without risk of damaging the blastoderm.

An ordinary *conical* measuring glass of a capacity of 100 c.c., with the edge turned out with a large "lip," is placed in a flat dish, and is filled to the very brim with nitric acid. The egg shell is then broken, and the entire contents poured into the glass in exactly the method adopted in the kitchen, except that the egg is held when being opened close over the glass so that there may be as little disturbance as possible. The glass being brim full, when the contents of the egg are added to it a quantity of the fluid runs over the sides; with this there begins to run some of the external, more fluid, part of the white; as this runs over, it by its weight gently draws the firmer part of the white with it, and finally the firm layer which immediately invests the yolk is peeled off as one might peel off the outermost coat of an onion, leaving the yolk and blastoderm with the investing vitelline membrane quite entire and perfectly clean in the glass—the entire white having in this way spontaneously thrown itself off. The whole process takes only two or three seconds. If, as occasionally happens, owing to some of the fluid having been splashed out of the glass in pouring in the egg, the white does not begin to run over the edge, a little of it should be pushed over the lip, and left to draw the rest after it in the manner described.

The entire yolk with the blastoderm should be left for half an hour in the glass with the nitric acid; it may then, part of the acid having been poured off, be returned into a large dish full of water, which has to be changed several times. After the yolk has been for a few minutes in the water the blastoderm has to be cut out with scissors, when it will readily peel off from the underlying yolk, and the vitelline membrane readily comes away. The blastoderm is then to be left for half an hour in water, which should be renewed, and then transferred to weak alcohol (60 per cent.), in which it should remain for twelve hours; it should then be placed for two days in 90 per cent. alcohol, and then stained by immersion for three or four hours in Ehrlich's hæmatoxylin (crystallized hæmatoxylin 2 grms., water 100 c.c., glycerine 100 c.c., acetic acid 10 c.c.), followed for a few minutes by acidulated alcohol (97 c.c. 70 per cent. alcohol, 3 c.c. hydrochloric acid), and that in turn for half an hour or more by alcohol diluted to 70 per cent. by the addition of ordinary tap-water or water artificially rendered slightly alkaline. The specimen will then be ready, after passing through 90 per cent. and absolute alcohol, for mounting as a whole. For sections it is better to omit the acidulated alcohol, and to allow the specimen three days further hardening in 90 per cent. and absolute alcohol.

The important point here is, of course, the ease and rapidity with which the white is got rid of, so that a large number of blastoderms may be prepared in a comparatively short time. But the mode of subsequent treatment described above, which is applicable to blastoderms prepared in other ways, gives results, particularly for whole blastoderms, such as are not obtained by any other of the many methods tried.